

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03200 111140Z

41

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 FBO-08 A-01 ARA-10 /021 W

----- 101820

R 101937Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5723

UNCLAS KINGSTON 3200

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, JM

SUBJECT: THE NEW VISA BUILDING; THE PROOF OF
THE PUDDING

1. WE HAVE NOW PASSED THE PEAK VISA ISSUANCE SEASON IN JAMAICA, OUR FIRST IN THE NEW VISA BUILDING OCCUPIED LAST JANUARY. STATISTICS INDICATE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BOTH NON-IMMIGRANT AND IMMIGRANT VISA LOADS IN THE PERIOD MAY 1 AUGST 31, 1974 WITH NO INCREASE IN ON-BOARD PERSONNEL OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. PRESSURE WAS INTENSE, YET THE NEW PLANT PERMITTED SMOOTH, EFFICIENT, AND HUMANE HANDLING OF APPLICANTS. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR THERE WAS ALMOST NO COMMENT IN THE MEDIA OR PUBLIC ARENA ABOUT U.S. VISA ISSUANCE POLICIES AND PRACTICES. COMMENT WAS RESTRICTED TO A SINGLE EDITORIAL IN A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AND DID NOT REFER TO THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES OR HANDLING OF VISA APPLICANTS AT ALL.

2. THOUGH THE PRESSURE OF NUMBERS WAS EVEN GREATER THAN LAST YEAR AND ALL THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO POTENTIAL FRAUD REMAINED, BOTH VISA OFFICERS AND APPLICANTS SEEMED CONSIDERABLY CALMER DUE TO IMPROVED CONDITIONS, AND VIOLENT SCENES SO COMMON LAST YEAR WERE THE EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE.

3. WE REMAIN DEEPLY INDEBTED TO ARA/EX, SCA AND FBO FOR THEIR HELP IN LOCATING, FINANCING, AND REDESIGNING THE NEW VISA BUILDING. THEY CAN TAKE GREAT SATISFACTION FROM THE
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FAVORABLE OUTCOME.

4. HERewith THE STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1 - AUGUST 31,
1974 AND COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

MAY 1 - AUGUST 31, 1973 MAY 1 - AUGUST 31, 1974

ISSUED.....9,313 ISSUED.....12,076

REVALIDATED AND REVALIDATED AND

TRANSFERRED.....,118 TRANSFERRED 4,755

REFUSED.....6,967 REFUSED..... 4,575

TOTAL 19,398 TOTAL 21,406

IMMIGRANT VISAS

ISSUED.....3,652 ISSUED..... 3,622

REFUSED..... 807 REFUSED.....1,034

TOTAL 4,459 TOTAL 4,656

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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